Prof. J. Lederberg Department of Genetics, University of Wisconsin, Madison 6, Wisconsin, U. S. A.

Dear Professor Lederberg:

First, I wish to offer my sincere congraturation for your honor of receiving the Nobel prize in the Medical field.

I read your letter of October 17, about the situation of Dr. Hirota. About three weeks ago, he sent me a letter in which he wanted to hear my opinion about his future. As you wrote in your letter, I also hope that he continues with his original plans with you. But, I can also understand his present anxiety about his future, because he has not yet a definite position in any Institute or University in Japan (Dr. Iino had already a position in the National Institute of Genetics in Japan before he went abroad). As far as I know, the degree of Doctor in foreign countries seems to give no advantageous condition, when a Japanese scientist gets a good position in Japan. Further, Dr. Hirota is already about 30 years old, and I guess he has an intention to marry, because he had the betrothed wife in Japan, though he did not touch upon this problem.

After consulting with some friends who have experiences of studying abroad, we have reached the conclusion that it might better Dr. Hirota comes back to Japan in a near future and gets a definite position in any University or Institute (the position of Instructor proposed by Prof. Iseki in the Gumma University seems to us very good), and also marry with an adequate girl. After a few years, he will be able to go abroad again with his wife. At that time, he will work more enthusiastically without any anxiety about his future. We are afraid that Dr. Hirota gets homesick and spoils his talent and ability under the present situation. Perhaps, he is also suffering from economical points in his life, and I hope and expect that your favor to give him a more plenty of money would change his mind (as I told to Prof. Crow, he got the degree of Doctor(Sti.) in Osaka University in April of this year).

The matter shown here is a quite serious problem not only for the present case but also for other cases which will be taken place in future. I hope sincerely that the friendship among us would not be impared by the mutual comprehension, and let Dr. Hirota display his best ability to Science.

Very sincerely yours,

N. Kikhawa

H. Kikkawa